

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2331
ANSWERED ON:28.03.2012
SUPPORT FOR PALESTINE
Shetkar Shri Suresh Kumar

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India pledges support for Palestine;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the present position thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED)

(a) Yes.

(b) & (c) India's support to the Palestinian cause is a matter of record. Our unwavering support to the Palestinian people is not limited only to economic and humanitarian support but we have a long history of supporting the 'Palestinian cause'. India supported Palestine even before she herself attained independence in 1947. In 1975, India was the first non-Arab State to recognise the Palestine Liberation Organisation as the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. In 1980, we accorded full diplomatic recognition to the PLO Office in New Delhi. On 16 November 1988, we recognised the State of Palestine, pursuant to the Algiers Declaration of a State of Palestine on 15 November 1988. Hon'ble Prime Minister had stated in his speech in the United Nations General Assembly on 24 September 2011 that India has been steadfast in its support for the Palestinian people's struggle for a sovereign, independent, viable and united State of Palestine with East Jerusalem as its capital, living within secure and recognised borders side by side and at peace with Israel, as per the relevant resolutions of the United Nations, the Arab Peace Initiative and the Quartet roadmap. The Prime Minister added that India looks forward to welcoming Palestine as an equal member of the United Nations. India supported Palestine's admission as a member to the UNESCO recently.